

Message Text

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PAGE 01 BEIRUT 02032 111250Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----080992 111251Z /53

O 111204Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
TO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE
SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7552
INFO AMCONSUL JERUSALEM IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY PARIS

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 2032

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MARR, UN, IS, LE, UR
SUBJ: SOUTH LEBANON: UNIFIL LIAISON

REFS: (A) STATE 92209; (B) USUN 1329

1. GIVEN WALDHEIM'S APPARENT DETERMINATION WITHHOLD
DECISION ON ASSIGNMENT OF A SPECIAL POLITICAL REPRESENTA-
TIVE TO BEIRUT UNTIL HE HAS MADE HIS TOUR OF AREA, WE SEE
NO PURPOSE IN USUN CONTINUING TO PRESS THE MATTER. ESTABLISH-
MENT OF UNIFIL LIAISON OFFICE HERE AS REPORTED JERUSALEM'S
1031 MAY HELP SOME, AND APPOINTMENT OF FRENCH GENERAL CUCQ
AS DEPUTY COMMANDER UNIFIL SHOULD ALSO BE HELPFUL. CUCQ MAY
BE ABLE TO RESOLVE COORDINATION PROBLEMS WITH LEBANESE,
PARTICULARLY ONCE UNIFIL GETS ITS HEADQUARTERS ESTABLISHED
AT ZAHRANI, ALTHOUGH WE AWAIT WITH INTEREST TO SEE HOW HE
WILL FARE WHEN HE COMES UP AGAINST LEBANESE IMMOBILISME.

2. POINT RAISED BY JONAH, E.E., THAT SPECIAL REPRESENTATIVE
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WHO WOULD DEAL WITH PLO WOULD INFLATE PLO AND ARAFAT'S
PRESTIGE HAS MERIT. LIKE IT OR NOT, HOWEVER, PLO IS ONE OF
THE PARTIES TO THE DISPUTE, AND ITS COOPERATION IS ESSENTIAL
TO UNIFIL'S ACCOMPLISHMENT OF ITS MISSION. THERE WILL
INEVITABLY BE WORKING CONTACTS BETWEEN UNIFIL AND PLO
AND WE THINK IT WOULD BE BETTER TO HAVE THEM HANDLED OR
SUPERVISED BY SOMEONE WITH SOME POLITICAL SOPHISTICATION

RATHER THAN LEAVING THEM TO MILITARY OFFICERS WHO MAY OR
MAY NOT UNDERSTAND THE POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF WHAT THEY ARE
SAYING OR ACCEPTING. IN THE GOOD OLD DAYS UNTSO ALWAYS
HAD A POLITICAL ADVISOR. UNIFIL NEEDS ONE TOO, FOR CONTACTS
WITH ISRAELIS AND GOL AS WELL AS WITH PALESTINIANS. PARKER

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Message Attributes

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